

STATE OF WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

4601 N Monroe Street • Spokane, Washington 99205-1295 • (509)329-3400

October 11, 2007

Senator Patty Murray United States Senate 173 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510-4704

Dear Senator Murray:

RE: Pasco Sanitary Landfill Site - Response to Concerns: Reisinger Residence

Thank you for your September 28, 2007 letter regarding Mr. Reisinger's expressed difficulties in dealing with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). Ecology is overseeing the cleanup activities being conducted at the Pasco site by consultants to the Potentially Liable Person (PLP) Group. Mr. Reisinger has a domestic well located within the groundwater protection area for the Pasco Sanitary Landfill Site.

You addressed two issues in your letter:

- 1) Mr. Reisinger's belief that the contamination in his drinking water is related to the sand that is clogging his pump and water pipes, and his request to be compensated for the cost of cleaning them; and
- 2) His belief that his daughter's health problems are potentially related to drinking the contaminated water in his well.

With respect to the first issue, the contamination in Mr. Reisinger's well is not associated with sand particles but with the groundwater contamination coming from the Pasco site. Our office was advised by the consultants that an existing sand clogging problem was encountered when the well-head treatment system was initially installed on Mr. Reisinger's domestic well. At that time, the consultants installed an in-line sand filter to preclude continued clogging of the treatment system.

In 2006 the consultants needed to remove the well treatment system they had installed on Mr. Reisinger's well. They offered to leave the sand filter in place to prevent clogging of the system and offered to maintain the filter at no cost to Mr. Reisinger. They advised Mr. Reisinger that if the sand filter was removed, the sanding issues would likely resume. Mr. Reisinger requested that the sand filter be removed along with the treatment system. His request was complied with.

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With respect to the second issue: Mr. Reisinger has not identified any health-related concerns for his daughter to Ecology. Health-related issues fall under the jurisdiction of either the Washington State Department of Health or the local health departments. Mr. James R. Dawson of the Benton-Franklin Health Department recently notified me that Mr. Reisinger had contacted him by telephone with these and other heath-related concerns. Mr. Dawson attempted to address those concerns in a telephone call with Mr. Reisinger; however, Mr. Reisinger hung up and now refuses to take any calls from the Benton-Franklin Health Department. Mr. Dawson may be reached for further information on this matter at 509/582-7761, Ext. 255.

The groundwater contamination impacting Mr. Reisinger's well is above the State of Washington's cleanup levels. However, the groundwater contamination continues to be below Federal Drinking Water Standards. Even though the contamination is below the Federal standards, our office, the Benton-Franklin Health Department, and the PLP Group continue to encourage Mr. Reisinger to connect to city water. The PLP Group has agreed to cover both the hookup and the monthly water-usage fees at no cost to Mr. Reisinger.

I am enclosing copies of two letters previously sent to Mr. Reisinger: one joint letter from Ecology, the Benton-Franklin Health Department, and the PLP Group; and a letter from the PLP Group. These letters provide some background into the on-going efforts and offers of alternative domestic drinking water supplies made to Mr. Reisinger.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to respond to your inquiry. I am available to discuss this matter further with your Spokane staff at their convenience. Please contact me at 509/329-3520.

Sincerely,

Dave George Project Manager

Toxics Cleanup Program

cc: John Level, AAG/Olympia

James R. Dawson, Benton-Franklin District Health Department

Mr. Wayne Clifford, WA State Department of Health

Barbara J. Smith, Pasco Landfill PLPs

Rod Lobos, EPA

Enclosures